

YOUR WEEK IN CHINA'S CAPITAL

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北京

# BEIJING TODAY

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## Cam Shows a Gray Area for Internet Porn

Competition in the hormone economy is pushing webcam hostesses to strip. **Page 4**



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The drugging of an allegedly lesbian student is only the latest in a string of abuses. **Page 5**



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Xinmu's narrators are helping Beijing's blind people to fall in love with cinema. **Page 6**



## Unsanitary Food at Your Door

Ele.me, Baidu Waimai and Meituan Waimai have once again been busted for advertising unlicensed and unsanitary "restaurants" in their food delivery apps. Ele.me alone was caught routing orders to 25,000 illegally operated restaurants. **Page 2**

## Zhongguancun's Fake iPhones Fool Apple's Website

BY YANG XIN

**M**anufacturers and dealers in Zhongguancun Electronic City, China's largest consumer electronics distribution center, have seriously advanced in the art of making pirate iPhones. The market is now awash with fake iPhone 6S phones made from recycled iPhone 6 motherboards.

Li Xiong (pseudonym) bought a gold iPhone 6S, 64G for 5,000 yuan at a store at Zhongguancun on March 1. The price was 1,088 yuan cheaper than on Apple's official website.

The phone began to malfunction soon after purchase, so Li went online to check the device's IMEI code on Apple's offi-

cial website.

While it did appear to be an iPhone, the handset was activated two months before Li bought it. It was not until he took it to Apple's service center that Li discovered his "iPhone 6S" was actually a modified iPhone 6 with an used serial number.

Liang Xu (pseudonym), a mobile phone dealer in Zhongguancun's Dinghao Electronic City, told *Beijing News* that modifying an iPhone 6 into iPhone 6S costs much less than purchasing the new model.

"The shell for an iPhone 6S normally costs 300 yuan or more. By simply filling it with recycled iPhone 6 parts that cost 2,000 yuan, you can sell it at the price of a

new iPhone 6S and make a profit of 2,000 yuan," Liang said.

Dealers in Zhongguancun sell dozens each day.

"There are quite a few stores dealing in fake iPhones. In order to avoid responsibility, they seldom have stable storefronts and never stay in one place for long," Liang said.

But many were reluctant to sell in the days before March 15 – National Consumer Day – wary of being caught in a media sting. "Business will pick up again after the 15th. I've been told to keep the phones hidden until then," Li Jie, a mobile phone dealer, told *Beijing News*. ■

## CHINESE STOCK INDEXES

### SSE (Shanghai)

Close	Change	YTD
2,960.97	▼ 48.99 (1.63%)	-16.34%

### SZSE (Shenzhen)

Close	Change	YTD
10,283.68	▼ 158.70 (1.52%)	-18.80%

### HSI (Hong Kong)

Close	Change	YTD
20,345.61	▼ 269.62 (1.31%)	-7.16%

Accurate to market close on March 24, 2016





Photo by CFP

## Problems Continue for Online Ordering Platforms

BY DIAO DIAO

The China Food and Drug Administration and Beijing Food and Drug Administration exposed six restaurants that were operating without licenses near Xueyuan Nan Lu on March 10.

The announcement kicked off two weeks and five reports about unlicensed restaurants being promoted on online platforms.

The initial announcement named Shangshanglao Hotpot, Shenwu Kitchen, Shiguang Restaurant, Zhangji Huangmen Chicken and Rice, 96 Degree Malatang and Traditional Hejian Donkey Meat as violators.

The owner of Hejian Donkey Meat said the restaurant had only been open for two months and was still waiting for its license to arrive.

Police raided and confiscated the cooking equipment from all the restaurants.

96 Degree Malatang's kitchen was notable for being dirty and small, and for exposing ingredients to the open air. The

kitchen lacked a freezer and the prep table was placed adjacent to the trash bin.

Li Min, head of enforcement at the Beijing Food and Drug Administration, said the restaurants found most of their customers through online ordering platforms.

Three days after the announcement, *Beijing Youth Daily* ran a story about the unsanitary conditions of insulated delivery used by many of the restaurants listed on online ordering platforms.

A delivery agent surnamed Wang who worked for Baidu Waimai near Guomao told *Beijing Youth Daily* that his company only cleans their insulated delivery bags if they begin to smell. Wang said his bag had not been cleaned in eight months.

Similar answers also came from delivery agents for Meituan Waimai: they only clean the bags when something spills.

On March 16, Eleme.com was exposed for failing to check the food licenses of res-

taurants advertised on its platform. CCTV reporters found that Hongwei Restaurant on Eleme.com was actually an outdoor square. Kitchen and dining tables were stacked outside the room, and the same towels were used to clean both pots and spoons. The chef was caught sticking his hands in the food to check the taste.

CCTV reporters then set up their own fake restaurant and attempted to get it listed on Eleme.com. The manager of Eleme.com in Yanjiao said they did not need a license or a physical restaurant location to get listed on the platform.

On World Consumer Rights Day, March 15, Eleme.com was reported to have routed business to 25,000 illegally operated restaurants.

The Beijing Food and Drug Administration ordered the operators of Eleme.com, Baidu Waimai, Meituan Waimai and other online ordering platforms to clean up all their platforms within three weeks. ■

## Local Car Club Busted for Unregistered Mods

BY YANG XIN



Photo from Sina Weibo

Police busted a meet-up of car modifiers at an underground parking lot in Galaxy SOHO mall, Beijing's largest shopping mall in the city center, earlier this month.

Twenty-seven vehicles were found to have been illegally modified and another carried with a fake license plate. The owners were fined and ordered to restore their vehicles to factory status.

According to photos released by the police, the modified vehicles included premium sports cars such as the Nissan GT-R35, Lancer EVO, Porsche 911, Honda Jed and Ferrari, as well as a handful of low-end hatchbacks.

iAcrophobia, a car modding group, is believed to have been the party organizer. Shi Haitao, a member of the group, told the *Beijing News* that the group

is a non-profit community focused on car culture. The party was one of a number of weekly meet-ups where car fans would drive in their vehicles to chat with fellow enthusiasts.

"Car modification does not equal car racing. We often mistakenly take the blame for car racers," Shi said, adding that the group encourages its members to boycott car racing.

Police wrote on their official Weibo account that while car modification does not equal car racing, unlicensed car modification is illegal.

The *Legal Evening News* said all car modifications must be in accordance with national traffic laws and must be registered with the local traffic administration after modification. Illegally modified cars face a fine of 200 yuan and will be failed on annual testing requirements by the Ministry of Transport.

Shi said that the car suspected of having a fake plate is note related to the iAcrophobia group. "Though we can accept the fines, we won't give up our hobby," Shi said.

The raid was part of a national crackdown on illegal car modifications. ■

## College Copy Shops Caught Selling Pirate Textbooks

BY DIAO DIAO

Five national departments united to stop the sale of pirate textbooks by university print shops in February. As the capital and the site of numerous schools, Beijing was among the top targets.

March marks the beginning of the new semester at many universities and it's also the busiest month for university print shops.

*Beijing Youth Daily* reporters went to several universities in Beijing and found that most nearby print shops sold pirated copies of the semester's text books.

In one shop, a reporter asked about acquiring study materials for the National Graduate Exam. The print shop owner said the price per page to make a pirate copy would vary from 0.1 yuan to 0.2 yuan, depending on the page count.

Several pirate textbooks were out on the table for sale, including an English edition of *Information System Essentials*. The shop owner said it was an extra copy left behind by a student.

Print shops are typically located near student cafeterias and classroom buildings. Most schools have six print shops on the campus grounds.

At another shop, reporters found an advertisement that said "We print and copy textbooks!" Many pre-copied books were available on the table near the door. The owner said it was an order from one class.

"One student came and left their name and number, the book and how many copies they wanted to buy books for the class," the owner said.

The owner also said that they have many students who stop in each year to purchase digital PDF editions of the textbooks.

Students said they preferred to buy pirate versions of their textbooks because the originals are prohibitively expensive. Copied editions also often contain notes from past students that indicate which parts of the book are worth reviewing for exams.

Reporters contacted several universities for comment, but teachers said they can only warn the shop and students about using pirate textbooks since there are no clear rules. ■



Photo by kaoshidian.com

# Gov to Crack Down on Fake Social Orgs

BY YANG XIN

The Ministry of Civil Affairs released a list of 203 social organizations which were registered offshore and identified as "fake" on March 4.

The list includes the China Private Entrepreneurs Association, China Longevity Project Foundation, China Product Quality Association and several health, education, food and luxury industry groups.

The ministry's Social Organization Management Center has also published a list of illegal offshore social organizations on its website Chinampo.gov.cn.

Many copycat organizations take advantage of loose registration requirements abroad to register in a country with weaker regulations and evade the strict rules of domestic authorities.

Most begin their names with "China," "The Chinese World" or "National" and sound quite similar to officially registered domestic social organizations to confuse potential donors.

While officially registered domestic social organizations normally play the



Photo by hbtv.com

role of non-profit philanthropic institutions, fake organizations have only one goal: seizing money.

Cui Feng, a convention and exhibition service worker, told *Workers' Daily* that he always sees people slinging seemingly high-ranking business cards. "After getting themselves registered offshore, the next stop is to acquire members and charge membership fees. Some also organize fee-charging events, training programs and sponsored competitions," he said. "It's not just civilians who are being tricked. Some media and governmental bodies have been

fooled as well."

A media worker surnamed Yao shared his experience with China Cheongsam Association, a fake social organization blacklisted by the Ministry of Civil Affairs. "First they sent me an invitation letter and asked me to attract investment for their membership club. The membership fee for a metropolitan-level unit is 200,000 yuan and the provincial-level fee is 500,000 yuan. They offer a royalty rate of 25 percent," he said.

From time to time the group would announce some industry awards which were bought and sold and carried no exclusivity. Many organizations have posed as a quality supervision association to blackmail corporations for money, Yao said.

But the main reason fake social organizations are growing is the bureaucracy of China's official social organizations.

"Companies are always willing to hand over some money in exchange for a group photo with some organization officials. They just don't care whether or not those organizations are authentic," Cui said. ■

## 1 Yuan Notes to be Replaced by Coins

BY DIAO DIAO



Photo by CFP

phased out. It took the less popular 2 yuan paper note almost a decade to vanish from the market.

The People's Bank of China's Qingdao branch said small denomination currency works better as coins in more developed

countries. The life cycle of a minted coin is about 30 years, about 300 times the life of a paper note.

Coins are also more common in daily life, being accepted by public transportation, vending machines and other self-service facilities.

The shift to coins may also be an attempt to stop certain radical organizations from repurposing the yuan to spread stamped propaganda messages.

A survey by *Beijing Youth Daily* found that northern families tend to leave their coins at home and use paper while people in southern China were more likely to carry coins. ■

## Successor of 'Shuangqiao Granny' Returns to Treat Patients

BY DIAO DIAO

The sixth generation successor of Shuangqiao Granny's famous bone setting technique Wang Chengyu is seeing patients near Badachu.

Luo Youming, better known as Shuangqiao Granny, is one of Beijing's most famous doctors and a former expert in the orthopedics department at Shuangqiao Healthcare Center. She is known as much for her ancestral treatment as well as for her kindness and modesty.

Wang works at the Badachu Hospital of Chinese Traditional and Western Medicine in Shijingshan district. He sees 40 patients per day from Wednesday to Saturday.

Wang said he was selected to be a student the first time he and Luo met. Wang, then a recent middle school graduate, was considering becoming a barefoot doctor in the countryside.

During her years of practice, Luo built a reputation for fast diagnosis and effective treatment. Luo herself was the fifth generation to receive her medical knowledge: her granddaughter Luo Cuihua will be the seventh.

Luo died in 2008 at the age of 105.

Luo's bone setting treatment is considered an intangible cultural heritage and there are a number of doctors falsely posing as her former students, Wang said. ■

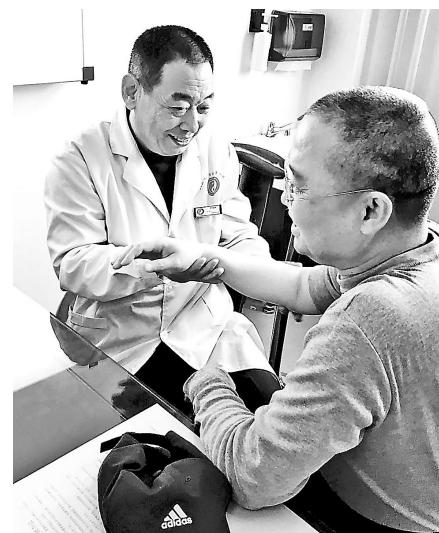


Photo by Beijing Youth Daily

## THE WEEK IN WEIRD

STRANGE HAPPENINGS ON THE CHINESE NEWS WIRE  
BY SU DERUI

### Tardy Students Punished with Writing Chinese Characters

Wang Sijun, a teacher's assistant at the Chengdu College of University of Electronic Science and Technology of China, may have found one of the most brutal ways to punish tardy students in China: make them write characters.

A late student was ordered to write the character for "biang," a kind of popular noodle in Shaanxi province, 1,000 times. The character weighs in at a brutal 56 strokes. Another tardy student was punished with having to draw 100 terra cotta warriors.

Wang said the punishments have been effective at stopping late arrivals and praised his own creativity in coming up with them.

(Tencent News)

### Man Jailed for Phoning Police to Rescue Dog

A 35-year-old Guangzhou man phoned police to report a child in danger on March 13. In reality he hoped the officers would rescue a dog that had become trapped in a drainage ditch.

Thirteen police officers and firefighters responded to the call, prepared to rescue a child near a soccer field in the city's Tianhe district.

The man was sentenced to three nights of administrative detention as punishment for his shenanigans.

(ThePaper.cn)

### Cross Dresser Sacked from Job at Guiyang Medical Center

A 28-year-old woman who was unnamed in reports has gone public with her story of being bullied and sacked from her job at a medical center in Guiyang for wearing men's attire to work.

Her appeal to the Guiyang Yunyan District Labor Arbitration Commission is being contested by the center's human resources department, who said her job involved meetings with other departments and companies.

"They told me I was acting gay and damaging the company's image," she said.

The woman said she had preferred men's clothing and hairstyles since middle school, and that her appearance was not a problem when she was hired in April 2015.

(Tencent News)

### Henan Segregated Cafeteria to Crush Young Love

Romance is the bane of Chinese parents – at least when it involves children younger than the age of 24. Eager to please and ready to act, one school in Luoyang, Henan province hopes it can crush young love by keeping boys and girls separate.

A revised cafeteria layout equips the room with cameras ready to catch photographic evidence of flirting. Those caught are publicly shamed on the school bulletin board.

Li Xinnian, the principal, said some of the student couples were caught romantically feeding each other in the cafeteria and that dating had started to influence their studies.

(Tencent News)



Photo by CFP

BY KARENA HU

Baidu's Douyu TV is marketed as a game live streaming site akin to Twitch.tv. But unlike Twitch, the site has a surprising number of videos that have little to do with video games.

A number of Douyu channels are operated by young camgirls—online hostesses, to use the hormone economy term—who entertain their followers with pretty faces and teasing conversation while enticing them to buy virtual gifts that convert into real cash.

While the webcam shows generally maintain a girl-next-door vibe with performances limited to singing, dancing and casual conversation, increasing competition is driving some women to explore more risqué entertainment.

Guo Mini, a Douyu webcam model, made Internet news on February 25 for live streaming a strip show to her channel. Although she and her agency said the video was obtained by someone who hacked into her webcam, the performance is changing opinions about the innocence of this fledgling industry.

### Chain Behind Screen

Webcam modeling—even in its non-nude form—is rarely an industry that leaves its participants short on money, and online hostesses are no exception. Hardworking channel operators with a number of followers can earn between 10,000 and 100,000 yuan per month.

Ding Yao, whose channel has 480,000 followers, is a 23-year-old law major who found her way into the industry after posing for a magazine spread. A friend at a talent agency told her that webcam models in South Korea were earning 1 million yuan per month with their shows.

Ding at first was hesitant to take up camming. During her first week online, she was criticized by her agent for "not communicating enough with her online followers." Since then, she adjusted her style and won a large following. Her peak show drew more than 600,000 viewers who were eager to

# Hostess Webcams a Gray Area for Online Porn

watch her change into expensive clothes she bought from South Korea.

"My followers are mainly young men who are very vain," Ding said in an interview with Paper.cn. "The rest are just people who want to hit on a young and beautiful model."

Ding's salary comes primarily from virtual gifts purchased on the streaming platform. The top selling item, rockets, cost 500 yuan each. The platform and agency each take a cut of the sale before passing the remainder to Ding. She thanks her followers by name and blows them kisses after each purchase.

On live streaming sites such as YY, followers spend heavily on their favorite models in hopes of getting a private nude chat.

"What the followers really care about is whether a girl has a hot body," Ding says. She has taken up pole dancing to stay in shape. But Ding's real dream is to break into mainstream entertainment like some of the celebrities with whom she has posed for photos.

A number of companies offer training for new models pursuing a career as an online hostess.

"They help arrange music and dance classes for girls who pass the interviews," Zhao, director of Junhe Brand Management, told Paper.cn. "Next, they teach them about lighting, their appearance, the rules for each platform and how to encourage rich followers to blow their money."

Zhao said most women interested in becoming an online hostess are either college students or young women in the big city who lack a stable job.

### Uncontrolled Business

Wang Jingyi, an analyst from iResearch, says 68 percent of the viewers are between the ages of 19 and 35, and the male-to-female viewer ratio is 4-1.

"In 2016, the total number of cam show viewers may reach 100 million," Wang said. The rapidly growing industry remains almost completely free of controls.

On January 11, Douyu TV carried the stream of a couple who were having sex on camera. Many reports have focused on the hostesses who pose nude to win followers to their channels, making the industry a little too close to a venue for personalized porn.

To counter these reports, many streaming site operators have assembled teams of content monitors who review accounts that contain flagged keywords or a suspicious number of followers. Streams that grow too quickly are suspected of sharing pornographic content and flagged for ongoing monitoring.

Their effectiveness remains questionable.

"How can a team made up of several people monitor thousands of live channels?" said Ma Weimin, an editor at Huxiu.com. Ma said the live nature of the content makes it extremely difficult for website operators to manage.

### What Next

*Foreign Policy* summarized online hostesses as the latest branch in China's growing "hormone economy," a phenomenon that "will continue to rage as the country's single young men seek online what they sometimes lack in the real world: young women, social approval and self-esteem," it wrote.

Unlike the seedy world of sexually explicit webcams found in the US and Europe, Chinese cam sites follow a model that began with Afreeca TV in South Korea. Although the platform also hosts video game broadcasts, TV streams and daily video blogs, it's better known for its legion of Broadcast Jockeys—BJs—who appear on camera to dance provocatively or pose in lingerie.

"We have round 60 supervisors in our company to monitor the streams 24/7," said Hong, the director of Afreeca TV. "If any channels are found to be live streaming pornography, we block the hostess from appearing on our website again."

In addition to satisfying young men, the Chinese cam show industry is seen as reflecting the growth of vulgar content in China's entertainment industry.

"Online streaming sites are basically where a group of lonely people get together and amuse themselves to death," said B12, a blogger on Baidu Baijia. Huang Yan, an author on Voc.com, said the popularity of webcam shows reflects the country's greater lack of quality entertainment.

Many are calling on the streaming site operators to be more judicious in their supervision of content.

"It's not just a job for Internet managers, but for police, news publishing agencies and media companies," says Gu Ziqian, a lawyer at Swordlake Law Firm.

"Many websites are not willing to control their content because it would mean less money," said Wang Yu, vice president of Neo TV. "But it's only temporary. I hope there will be more severe measures to control the industry. We have a long road of development ahead of us." ■

(Karena Hu is an intern at Beijing Today.)



Photo by Chentu.com

Photos from sina.com



# Violent Bullying a Growing Epidemic at Chinese Schools

BY WANG YAN

**A** recent report of three high school boys spiking a girl student's drink with an aphrodisiac has turned the spotlight of public scrutiny on China's growing problem with severe school bullying.

## 'She Deserved It'

On March 5, a girl student at Tianjiabing Experimental Middle School in Huangshan, Anhui province spoke out about a case of bullying gone too far.

In a post on Weibo, she explained how classmates drugged her with an aphrodisiac to test rumors about her sexual orientation. She said she felt nothing at first, but then classmates told her that three boys had spiked her drink with another substance. She assumed it was a laxative, but the boys admitted to slipping her an aphrodisiac the next day.

A follow-up investigation found the boys obtained the liquid aphrodisiac from a local sex shop, which closed before the incident.

The three boys were caught when they tried to administer it to another boy's drink as a test. They said they didn't feel any special effects when they tried it themselves, so they decided to add it to a girl's drink to see if it made a difference.

Online fury inspired the police in Huangshan to speed up their investigation of the case. The full details and names have not been released to the public because the case involves minors.

"We consider the case closed. The victim has forgiven the boys. Both parties

agreed that punishment should be according to school regulations," Huangshan police wrote on their Weibo channel on March 6.

The Huangshan Education Department said it would not take on the case due to "insufficient evidence."

The response and hasty verdict dissatisfied many Internet users, and 41 NGOs issued a joint statement urging the police to disclose the boys' "motivation" and punish them in accordance with the law.

Many said the punishment or lack thereof was too light – especially given the three boys were older than 16. But students at Tianjiabing Experimental School thoughts differently, and in a school forum blamed the girl for "ruining the boys' future" and "bringing shame to Huangshan."

Others accused her of "making a fuss" over a harmless "prank," and that "she deserved it for being a lesbian."

## National Problem

School bullying is common around the world, but bullying in China is usually quite physical and cruel.

Last June, nine Jiangxi province girls between the ages of 12 and 16 were filmed battering another girl student. That same month, three minors in Sichuan province stripped a younger girl naked, beat her and photographed their handiwork.

Also last June, the 16-year-old Huang Tanghong in Fujian Province was admitted to a hospital with a ruptured spleen. He had been the victim of bullying by three class-

mates for almost four years. The bullies were taken into custody for causing serious injury, but were released when their parents agreed to pay Huang's family a compensation of 210,000 yuan, CNN reported.

About 32.5 percent of China's students experience "mild bullying" and 6 percent experience "severe bullying," according to a 2016 survey of 5,000 students published by China Youth and Children Research Center.

A report by Zhejiang University paints a bleaker picture: 49 percent of China's students admit to being bullies, and a whopping 87 percent report being the victims of bullying.

The report said several factors were associated with bullying, especially peer pressure, family troubles, feelings of insecurity and increased time spent online. Family income showed little correlation.

## Regulations Not a Fix

The aphrodisiac incident occurred during China's Two Sessions, making the severity of school violence a hot topic during the government meeting.

Members of the National People's Congress (NPC) argued there is too little intervention in school bullying and appealed for tougher laws. Others argued that the solution lies in education.

China has no specific laws targeting school violence: the latest amendments to criminal law only target teachers who abuse students. Although some argue a harsher punishment might curb school

violence, legal professionals and teachers say punishments fail to address the underlying causes of bullying.

Shi Changjie, supervisor of the Sichuan Bar Association, told *Beijing News* there is no need for the law to fight school violence, and that the government should be especially careful in criminalizing juvenile actions.

"If the law is too tough, that one mistake could stick with a child his entire life," Shi told *Beijing News*.

Liu Chaoying, a Beijing-based psychological counselor, told CNN she believed psychological counselling services for students would be more effective.

She said that many perpetrators and victims come from families where parents and children don't communicate openly. These children have not been able to develop healthy mechanisms to deal with and express negative emotions.

"Kids at this age may react to the smallest things with extremely brutal behavior, and they don't necessarily understand the consequences of violence," Liu said.

She called for parents and educators to work together to address bullying in schools, since bullying reflects deeper social problems. "Parents need to spend enough time with their children and take their responsibility as guardian seriously," she said.

Sun Xiaoyun, researcher and deputy director at China Youth and Children Research Center, also said family education is the key. "Behind each perpetrator is a problematic family," Sun said. ■



Photos provided by Zeng Xin

# Knowing the World Through Ears and Heart

BY LI ZHIXIN



**T**he 20 viewers present for Xinmu Cinema's screening of *Lost in Hong Kong* shared more than laughter and applause last Saturday morning: they shared a disability.

Xinmu, whose name literally means "Eye of the Heart," is one of Beijing's only cinema venues dedicated to serving the blind. For 10 years, the miniature screening venue has helped disabled viewers to experience movies through their eyes and heart.

CCTV 2 anchor Xie Yinyin, 38, was Saturday's volunteer narrator for the film. She has been helping to narrate and describe films for blind theatergoers for the last several years.

Before the movie began, Xie introduced its background provided a general outline of the story to give the audience a chance to get familiar with her voice. Her narration during the film conveyed the settings and visual cues that sighted movie watchers take for granted.

"I need to tell them what the actors and actresses look like, what kind of clothes they are wearing, what facial expressions they are making and how the scene is being framed," Xie said.

The work is far different from storytelling: a narrator for the blind must understand both the film and the needs of blind cinema fans. Xie must quickly parse and convey all the important visual information about each scene within seconds. The job requires strong language skills and a keen sense of observation.

In describing objects that are likely unfamiliar to blind viewers, narrators rely on simple, descriptive language. "If we needed to describe a helicopter, we would say it looks like a giant spoon-shaped vehicle with fan blades on top," she said.

Xie watches each film four to five times to prepare for the session, consults movie reviews and watches any related interviews with the director. The preparation work can take up to a month as she ties her notes to the time codes of the movie and identifies places she can speak without interrupting the film's rhythm.

Image is often missing from the imaginations of the blind. Even those who suffer complete loss of vision only later in life may gradually lose their sense of color, spatial environments and the faces of their family members.

"Narration finds a way to complement blind people's idea of a visual world, and it's an effective way to trigger their interest in movies," said Zeng Xin, manager of Beijing Hongtongtong Education and Culture Exchange Center, the cinema's parent agency.

"The actors in the movie are

humorous, but I love the city most. It is clean, beautiful, friendly and cozy. I hope I can travel there someday and touch the water in Victoria Bay," said Hu Ling (pseudonym), a 48-year-old born with limited vision who became completely blind in 2011.

Hu's loss of her remaining vision frustrated her, and for several years she refused to allow her family to watch TV or movies. A trip to Xinmu Cinema sparked her interest in film, and she had been a frequent visitor ever since.

Hu said the volunteers often buy or build models of the figures shown in the movie to give the blind cinema-goers something they can touch and feel. For a screening of *Jurassic Park*, the narrator brought in model dinosaurs that the attendees could touch before the movie began.

Zhou Ling, 52, visits Xinmu for its library of audiobooks rather than its films. "The first book I listened to was Yu Hua's *To Live*. The heroes' ups and downs left me crying the whole night," she said.

Zhou was a nurse when she was young and became blind when she was 23. "I suddenly found that I could not see anything on the road, but I could still hear the sound of bicycles when I left the office that day," she said.

When the doctors told her she would lose her vision, she cried almost every day and contemplated suicide.

However, after becoming a frequent visitor of Xinmu's cinema and library, she began to think positively. She fills her time with mastering Braille levels and computer speech software and listening audiobooks. "I try to study one thing each year. This makes me feel that I am still alive," she said.

Audiobooks in Xinmu's collection are recorded by volunteers. Volunteers are required to read aloud all information – including the cover, a description of the cover art, index, name of the publishing house, page, price, color and whether the book is hardcover or softcover. It usually takes two to three months to finish recording one book, and post-production such as proofreading and editing takes an additional two to three months.

"Whatever information a normal person can see, we need it read aloud," Zeng said.

She said the library does not try to decide what blind people can see, but aims to provide them with all the same information to which a sighted person may have access.

"Empowering them with the right to choose is giving them dignity. By doing so, they can enjoy equal rights and can equally engage with cultural products," she said. ■



# Great Wall Goes Green for St Patrick's

BY YANG XIN



Photos by Tourism Ireland

The ramparts of the Badaling Great Wall at Yanqing county in northeastern Beijing were outlined in green light in celebration of St. Patrick's Day on the night of March 16.

The lighting event, organized by Tourism Ireland's Global Greening initiative with the support of the Embassy of Ireland in Beijing, was held in recognition of Ireland's National Day. Niall Gibbons, CEO of Tourism Ireland, said 2016 marks the seventh year of Tourism Ireland's Global Greening initiative. Many well-known attractions and landmark sites worldwide

have expressed an interest in getting involved in the celebrations, including the Roman Coliseum, the Leaning Tower of Pisa, the Sacre-Coeur Basilica in Paris, the statue of Christ the Redeemer in Rio de Janeiro and Nelson's Column in London.

Over the years, the Great Wall has hosted a number of Irish events, such as a concert by the Chieftains in 1983, when the Irish folk band became the first Western musicians to play on the Wall since the revolution of 1949.

The illumination of the Great Wall was overseen by Ireland's ambassador

to China, Paul Kavanagh, who was joined by a number of Chinese officials including Xie Wenzheng, deputy mayor of Yanqing district.

"We appreciate very much Beijing's support and cooperation in having the Great Wall of China join the global greening this March," Ambassador Kavanagh said. "The Great Wall is a sacred icon of national heritage and it's not a small thing. [The lighting] is a real gesture of friendship and we see it as such."

On February 18, Dublin's Mansion House and ancient City Hall were illu-

minated in red in honor of China's Spring Festival.

St. Patrick's Day is becoming a recognized event in China. Other buildings that went green for Irish Day include Canton Tower in Guangzhou and venues in Shanghai.

Aside from the greening of the Great Wall, this year's St Patrick's Day cultural program featured activities such as live music sessions and concerts by visiting Irish groups and soloists, art exhibitions, talks by Irish writers, the Irish Ball and a Ceili and parade at the UCD-BJUT joint college. ■



Initiated by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development and Alain Ducasse, the godfather of French cuisine, Good France swooped into Beijing on March 21.

The event, aimed to promote French food and the merits of French cuisine, enables Beijingers to enjoy contemporary French cuisine at the city's top French restaurants.

## Good France Makes Second Appearance in Beijing

BY YANG XIN

The event featured more than 1,000 French chefs around the world sharing their culinary expertise by cooking dinners at participating restaurants.

Menus included the traditional French aperitif, a cold starter, a hot starter, fish or shellfish, meat or poultry, cheese, a chocolate dessert and French wines and champagnes. Each demonstrated the modernity and diversity of French cuisine and quality ingredients.

2016 was the second time the French Embassy in Beijing participated in the event. This year, more than 60 restaurants in 18 Chinese cities were involved, among which seven were located in Beijing. Fans of French cuisine and newcomers were encouraged to explore dishes to which they would not otherwise have had access.

Each menu highlighted a dish that contained less fat, sugar and salt, and featured vegetables and grains to show healthy and environmentally responsible cuisine. In keeping with the concept of "eating local," most of the ingredients were sourced from local, in-season produce.

Thomas Ciret, the current chef de cuisine at the French Embassy in Beijing, said this year's dinner party featured cuisine from the French countryside. Guests could see live chickens, rabbits, pigs and donkeys in the embassy's garden.

"More than one third of the international travelers who visit France go to experience French cuisine and wine. I hope to see the event grow as an opportunity to celebrate the art of French living and enhance the charm of French gas-



Photos by the French Embassy in Beijing

tronomy through a festive dining experience for Chinese people at different levels of society," said Maurice Gourdault-Montagne, French Ambassador to China.

As to the modernity of French cuisine, the ambassador said many French chefs have begun to use tofu and Sichuan pepper, a spice commonly used in Chinese cuisine, in their cooking. ■



# Join Beijing Youth Camp International's Spring Program



**F**ew experiences compare to finding outdoor fun and new friends in the spring. If you are still searching for a program in which to participate in, Beijing Youth Camp International may be the perfect option.

Beijing Youth Camp International provides an open, practical, environmentally-friendly and easy atmosphere where young people can work together to foster lifestyles and positive attitudes. Established in 2013, the camp is a staple brand among outdoor camps for Beijing teens. By joining the BYCI activities held at the outdoor suburban campsites, young campers can meet peers from other provinces or countries and learn to cooperate.

Beijing Youth Camp International has numerous sites throughout Beijing, including Huxin Camp, Shunyi Camp, Daxing Camp and Mentougou Camp locations. All together the camps occupy some 6,000 acres of land. The chain expects to grow to 20 camp sites in the next year.

Beijing Youth Camp International is a registered brand under Beijing Youth Daily Group. The program has been supported by the Beijing Municipal Government since its establishment.

In August 2015, China's first lady Peng Liyuan visited Beijing Youth Camp International for its "Love Under the Sunshine" summer camp. Five government officials have visited and experienced the programs provided by the camp. It has also been praised by the Beijing Municipal Commission of Education as well as Beijing Walking Association for its work in promoting outdoor activities to youth.

Beijing Youth Camp International has 10 training programs developed in tandem with Beijing Sport University, including Outward Bound, Team Games, Military Camps, Media Literacy and Law Lessons. Its lessons with Chinese features are designed to help foreign campers learn more about China. Featured programs include face paintings, traditional arts and Chinese calligraphy.

Besides the listed activities, BYCI also has diverse activities that vary by season. Contact its offices ( via [www.qingnianying.com](http://www.qingnianying.com) ) for further details if you are interested in joining the camp.

For its spring program, Beijing Youth Camp International is preparing activities related to rebirth. A series of programs about painting, poem appreciation and photography will be highlight of our activities.

Don't hesitate to join one of the capital's most popular youth camps located in the beautiful suburbs. Reservations are available year round. ■

(By Karena Hu)